

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 10297 191531Z

46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 TRSE-00

AID-20 DPW-01 CPR-02 RSR-01 /158 W

----- 129343

R 191522Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6374

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10297

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, VN

SUBJECT: WEST GERMAN RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM

REF: (A) STATE 140442 (B) STATE 129011 (C) BONN 10248

SUMMARY: FRG AMBASSADOR IN PARIS WILL BE INSTRUCTED
JULY 19 OR 20 TO OFFER TALKS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO HIS NORTH VIETNAMESE COUNTER-
PART. FONOFF CONSIDERS IT LIKELY THAT THE TALKS WILL
TAKE SOME TIME. END SUMMARY

1. FONOFF SEA DIRECTOR, BERENDONCK, TOLD EMBOFF JULY
18 THAT FRG'S DECISION HAD BEEN PROMPTED NOT ONLY BY
ACTIONS OF OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, MOST
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PAGE 02 BONN 10297 191531Z

RECENTLY BRITAIN, BUT ALSO BY DESIRE TO ESTABLISH TIES

NECESSARY FOR FORMING A COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA. ONLY THEN WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO REACH RATIONAL AND INFORMED CONCLUSIONS ON AID AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CF. REFTEL C).

2. BONN INTENDS TO PROPOSE A CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH THE DRV AS BASIS FOR THEIR RELATIONSHIP. LETTERS WOULD HAVE TO COVER MATTERS NORMALLY REGULATED BY VIENNA CONVENTION, SINCE DRV IS NOT A PARTY TO THAT CONVENTION. IN ADDITION, FRG WILL TRY TO USE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS TO DEAL WITH QUESTION OF CONSULAR REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN. IT WANTS THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO ACKNOWLEDGE NOT ONLY BONN'S RIGHT TO REPRESENT INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS OF WEST BERLIN BUT ALSO ITS COMPETENCE WITH REGARD TO WEST BERLIN AS AN ENTITY OR JURIDICAL PERSON. (THIS IS SAME APPROACH FRG PLANS TO TAKE IN ITS TALKS WITH THE BULGARIANS AND HUNGARIANS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS--CF. BONN 10087.)

3. BERENDONCK THOUGHT THE TALKS WOULD PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME AND THAT THE BERLIN QUESTION ESPECIALLY MIGHT CAUSE DELAY. HE NOTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN HANOI AND EAST BERLIN HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CLOSE--BETTER, HE BELIEVES, THAN THOSE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAVE WITH ANY OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRY. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE GDR AND ATTEMPT TO TAKE EAST GERMAN VIEWS ON BERLIN INTO ACCOUNT. BONN WAS FULLY PREPARED FOR PROTRACTED TALKS, BERENDONCK SAID, AND WAS IN NO PARTICULAR HASTE TO CONCLUDE THE PROCESS. THE MAIN THING WAS TO GET IT STARTED.
HILLENBRAND

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